

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9686

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMCONSUL KADUNA

UNCLAS LAGOS 09188

FOR MEPD AND CORPS OF ENGINEERS: VICKSBURG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, NI

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: LAKOJA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

REF: STATE 184113

1. NATIONAL ELECTRIC POWER AUTHORITY (NEPA) CONSULTANTS, MOTOR COLUMBUS, HAVE FOUND LAKOJA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT TO BE ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE. THIS STATEMENT ABOUT DOLS 3 BILLION PROJECT IS IN REPORT NOT YET RELEASED TO PUBLIC ENTITLED LAKOJA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT: MAIN FEATURES OF PROPOSED SCHEME. J.C. UMOLU, CHIEF CIVIL ENGINEER, NEPA IS REVIEWING REPORT. HE SAID PLANT COST ALONE WOULD RUN TO DOLS 2.3 BILLION WHILE OTHER COSTS WOULD COVER RESETTLEMENT, BRIDGES, NEW RAILWAY LINE AND IRRIGATION SYSTEM AND RIVER PORT CONSTRUCTION.

2. PRIMARY BENEFIT OF PROJECT IS 1600 MEGAWATTS HYDROELECTRIC CAPACITY GIVING FIRM ENERGY SUPPLY OF 8,410 GIGAWATT HOURS/YR. ANNUAL SECONDARY BENEFITS INCLUDE DOLS 131 MILLION FOR AGRICULTURE, UNCLASSIFIED

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DOLS 72 MILLION FOR FISHERIES AND DOLS 16 MILLION FOR NAVIGATION. THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE UNQUANTIFIED BENEFITS TO AGRICULTURE ON LOWER NIGER. UMOLU DESCRIBED AN AREA ROUGHLY 30 MILES WIDE BY 200 MILES LONG, FROM IDAH TO THE DELTA, WHICH WILL GAIN FARMLAND THROUGH SWAMP DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL.

3. UMOLU WAS DELIGHTED TO HEAR OF INTEREST BY MORRISON-KNUDSEN AND BECHTEL. HE DID NOT SEE WHY THE FIRMS COULD NOT TEAM UP ON WHAT HE CALLED THE MOST IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FOR THE NEXT DECADE, ONE WHICH WOULD QUOTE FUNDAMENTALLY TRANSFORM THE COUNTRY UNQUOTE. HE SAID THEY COULD ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TOL.A. AMU, ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER (ENGINEERING), NEPA, 24, MARINA, P.M.B. 12030, LAGOS. TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE, NO FIRM HAD BEEN APPROACHED CONCERNING FINANCING OR ENGINEERING. WYMAN

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